



No. 934	Author Steven E. Backs, Wildlife Research Biologist	Date 6/18/2007
	Title 2007 Spring Wild Turkey Harvest - Check Station Results	

Abstract: Hunters harvested 11,163 wild turkeys in 86 of the 91 counties open to hunting. The 2007 harvest was the second highest harvest in 38 years slightly exceeding the 2005 harvest, but a 15% decrease compared to record 13,193 birds harvested in 2006. Estimated hunter success was around 21%. The majority of the birds were harvested in the earlier part of the season and the early morning hours. A total of 736 birds was taken during the new special youth weekend prior to the regular season (6.6% of the total statewide harvest). Juvenile and adult weights were similar to the mean weights of previous years. The proportion of juvenile turkeys in the harvest was 22% with 42% 2-yr-olds, and 26% \geq 3 yr-olds.

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The 38th wild turkey hunt was held 25 April to 13 May 2007 with harvest data collected at 338 check stations throughout the turkey range. Hunters harvested 11,163 wild turkeys in 86 of the 91 counties open to hunting during the 19-day season. The 2007 harvest was the second highest harvest in 38 years slightly exceeding the 2005 harvest, but a 15% decrease compared to record 13,193 birds harvested in 2006. Counties with high kills (>300 birds harvested) were Switzerland (467), Harrison (402), Jefferson (399), Dearborn (391), Greene (354), Perry (349), Parke (333), Clark (309), and Pike (306) (**Table 1; Figure 1**). Approximately 53% of the regular season's harvest occurred during the first 5 days with 31% occurring on weekends (**Figure 2**). A total of 736 birds was taken during the new special youth weekend (4/21 & 4/22) prior to the regular season (6.6% of the total statewide harvest). Approximately 70% of the harvest occurred by 1000 hrs and 78% by noon with 16% occurring after 1500 hrs (3 pm) to sunset (**Figure 3**). Unlicensed landowners/active military personnel accounted for 9% of the harvest.

Based on spur measurements taken at check stations, juvenile gobblers (1 yr-old birds commonly referred to as "jakes") made up 22% of the 2007 harvest; 2 yr-olds (42%); \geq 3 yr-olds (26%) (**Table 2; Figure 4**). Juvenile and adult mean weights were similar to previous years. The proportion of 2-yr-old birds in the harvest was down from previous years, especially from the record high proportion(67%) in 2006.

Reasons for the decreased harvest (-15%) appeared to be a combination of record low production in 2005 and the abnormal extremes in the spring weather temps that occurred prior to the season that seem to interrupt the normal breeding chronology. The -15% decrease in 2007 harvest follows a 18% increase with the record 2006 harvest and reflects wide range of production success in 2004 (record high) and 2005 (record low) followed by relatively low production success in 2006. The number of hunters afield was estimated at around 52,660 with an estimated hunter success of 21% (**Table 3**). A more accurate estimation of the hunter success and hunter effort during the 2007 spring season will be determined after the results of the turkey hunter questionnaire survey is completed later this summer.

Special thanks goes to Roger Hunter, Mitchell office, who put together the check station materials and to Steve Burcham, Becky Wilson, and Susan Pierce who handled various aspects of the data entry. Acknowledgment also goes to the 338 volunteer check station operators for their cooperation.

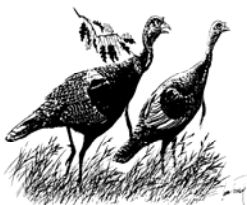


Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2006 and 2007.

County	2006 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2007 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Adams	0	0.0%	2	0.0%	2	---
Allen	2	0.0%	14	0.1%	12	600%
Bartholomew	127	1.0%	88	0.8%	-39	-31%
Benton	11	0.1%	5	0.0%	-6	-55%
Blackford	Not Open	Not Open	3	0.0%	---	---
Boone	0	0.0%	3	0.0%	3	---
Brown	287	2.2%	187	1.7%	-100	-35%
Carroll	4	0.0%	5	0.0%	1	25%
Cass	30	0.2%	30	0.3%	0	0%
Clark	342	2.6%	309	2.8%	-33	-10%
Clay	161	1.2%	107	1.0%	-54	-34%
Clinton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	---
Crawford	376	2.8%	264	2.4%	-112	-30%
Daviess	108	0.8%	107	1.0%	-1	-1%
Dearborn	489	3.7%	391	3.5%	-98	-20%
Decatur	57	0.4%	48	0.4%	-9	-16%
DeKalb	64	0.5%	75	0.7%	11	17%
Delaware	Not Open	Not Open	1	0.0%	---	---
Dubois	262	2.0%	205	1.8%	-57	-22%
Elkhart	19	0.1%	40	0.4%	21	111%
Fayette	53	0.4%	40	0.4%	-13	-25%
Floyd	75	0.6%	69	0.6%	-6	-8%
Fountain	177	1.3%	144	1.3%	-33	-19%
Franklin	399	3.0%	285	2.6%	-114	-29%
Fulton	59	0.4%	58	0.5%	-1	-2%
Gibson	120	0.9%	114	1.0%	-6	-5%
Grant	6	0.0%	4	0.0%	-2	-33%
Greene	397	3.0%	354	3.2%	-43	-11%
Hamilton	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	---
Hancock	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	---
Harrison	431	3.3%	402	3.6%	-29	-7%
Hendricks	5	0.0%	7	0.1%	2	40%
Henry	Not Open	Not Open	Not Open	Not Open	Not Open	Not Open
Howard	6	0.0%	11	0.1%	5	83%
Huntington	21	0.2%	17	0.2%	-4	-19%
Jackson	310	2.3%	224	2.0%	-86	-28%
Jasper	54	0.4%	68	0.6%	14	26%
Jay	Not Open	Not Open	6	0.1%	---	---
Jefferson	461	3.5%	399	3.6%	-62	-13%
Jennings	317	2.4%	255	2.3%	-62	-20%
Johnson	41	0.3%	46	0.4%	5	12%
Knox	72	0.5%	80	0.7%	8	11%
Kosciusko	32	0.2%	45	0.4%	13	41%
Lagrange	85	0.6%	101	0.9%	16	19%
Lake	5	0.0%	9	0.1%	4	80%
LaPorte	153	1.2%	173	1.5%	20	13%
Lawrence	354	2.7%	279	2.5%	-75	-21%

* Harvest totals from check station reports. Table 1 continued next page.

Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2006 and 2007 *con't.*

County	2006 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2007 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Madison	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	-2	-100%
Marion	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	---
Marshall	182	1.4%	222	2.0%	40	22%
Martin	293	2.2%	221	2.0%	-72	-25%
Miami	17	0.1%	13	0.1%	-4	-24%
Monroe	298	2.3%	197	1.8%	-101	-34%
Montgomery	66	0.5%	67	0.6%	1	2%
Morgan	72	0.5%	63	0.6%	-9	-13%
Newton	75	0.6%	72	0.6%	-3	-4%
Noble	12	0.1%	26	0.2%	14	117%
Ohio	165	1.3%	155	1.4%	-10	-6%
Orange	440	3.3%	275	2.5%	-165	-38%
Owen	313	2.4%	246	2.2%	-67	-21%
Parke	444	3.4%	333	3.0%	-111	-25%
Perry	470	3.6%	349	3.1%	-121	-26%
Pike	333	2.5%	306	2.7%	-27	-8%
Porter	15	0.1%	11	0.1%	-4	-27%
Posey	101	0.8%	99	0.9%	-2	-2%
Pulaski	85	0.6%	87	0.8%	2	2%
Putnam	199	1.5%	149	1.3%	-50	-25%
Randolph	0	0.0%	3	0.0%	3	---
Ripley	304	2.3%	219	2.0%	-85	-28%
Rush	3	0.0%	1	0.0%	-2	-67%
St. Joseph	111	0.8%	114	1.0%	3	3%
Scott	199	1.5%	166	1.5%	-33	-17%
Shelby	0	0.0%	5	0.0%	5	---
Spencer	306	2.3%	277	2.5%	-29	-9%
Starke	191	1.4%	236	2.1%	45	24%
Steuben	215	1.6%	234	2.1%	19	9%
Sullivan	288	2.2%	242	2.2%	-46	-16%
Switzerland	562	4.3%	467	4.2%	-95	-17%
Tippecanoe	47	0.4%	34	0.3%	-13	-28%
Tipton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	---
Union	81	0.6%	62	0.6%	-19	-23%
Vanderburg	16	0.1%	19	0.2%	3	19%
Vermillion	152	1.2%	124	1.1%	-28	-18%
Vigo	190	1.4%	189	1.7%	-1	-1%
Wabash	57	0.4%	63	0.6%	6	11%
Warren	132	1.0%	115	1.0%	-17	-13%
Warrick	349	2.6%	293	2.6%	-56	-16%
Washington	372	2.8%	255	2.3%	-117	-31%
Wayne	29	0.2%	35	0.3%	6	21%
Wells	1	0.0%	4	0.0%	3	300%
White	26	0.2%	34	0.3%	8	31%
Whitley	8	0.1%	6	0.1%	-2	-25%
Totals	13,193	100.0%	11,163	100.0%	-2,030	-15%

* Harvest totals from check station reports.

Figure 1 2007 Spring Turkey Harvest

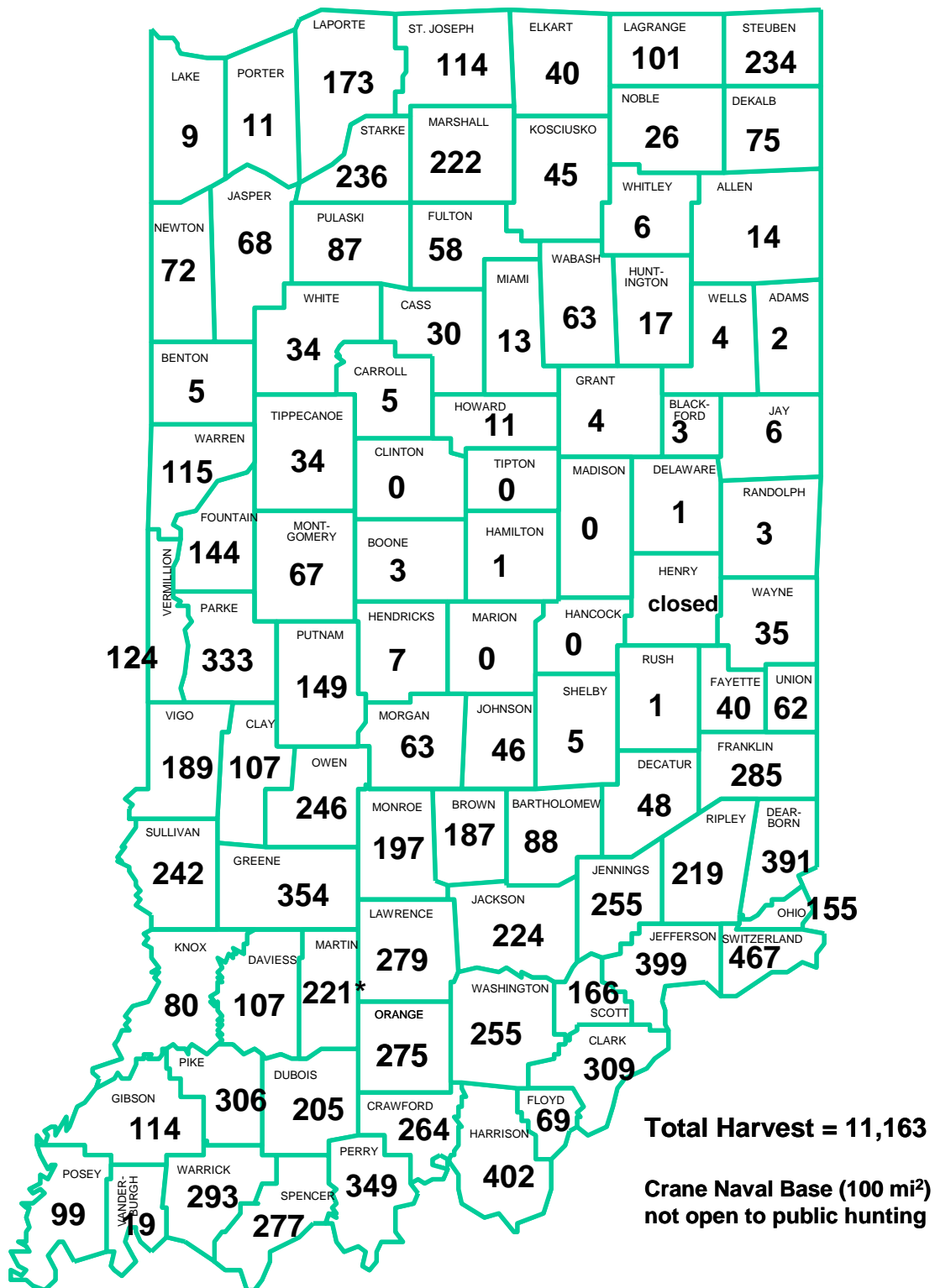
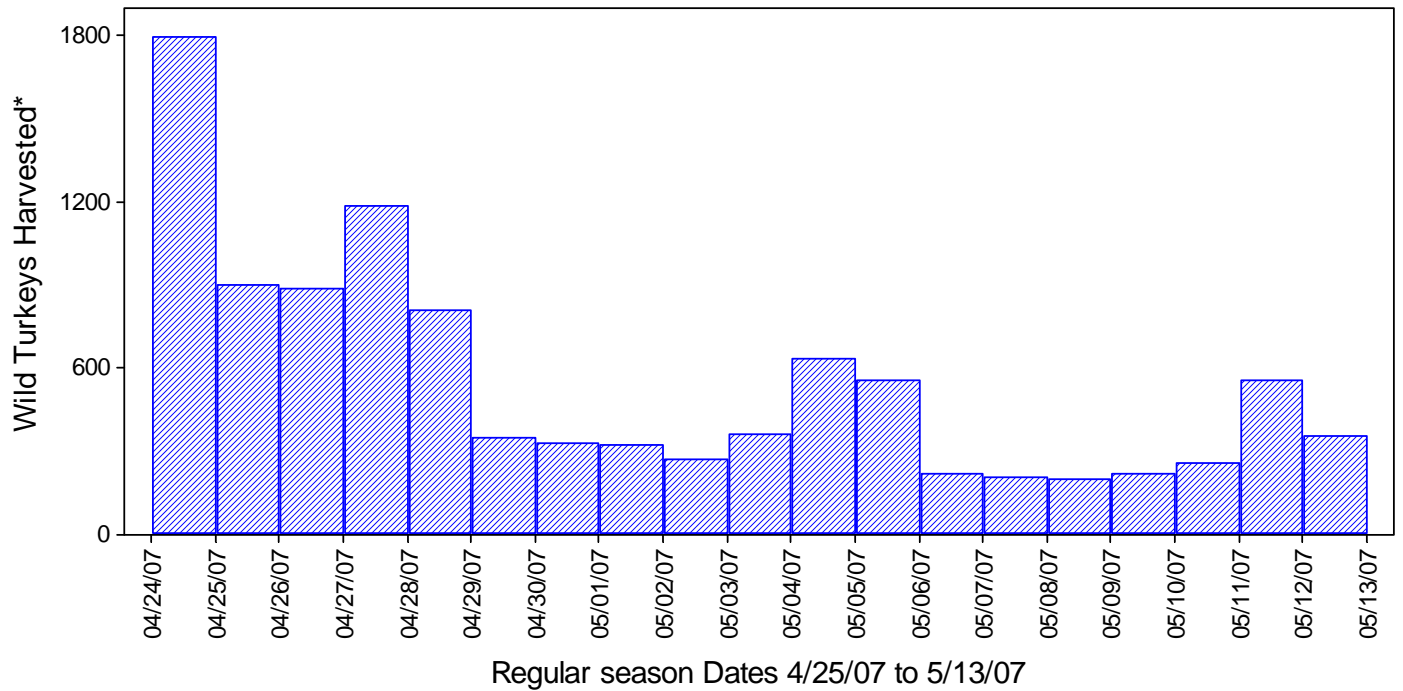


Fig 2 Harvest by Day of Regular Season

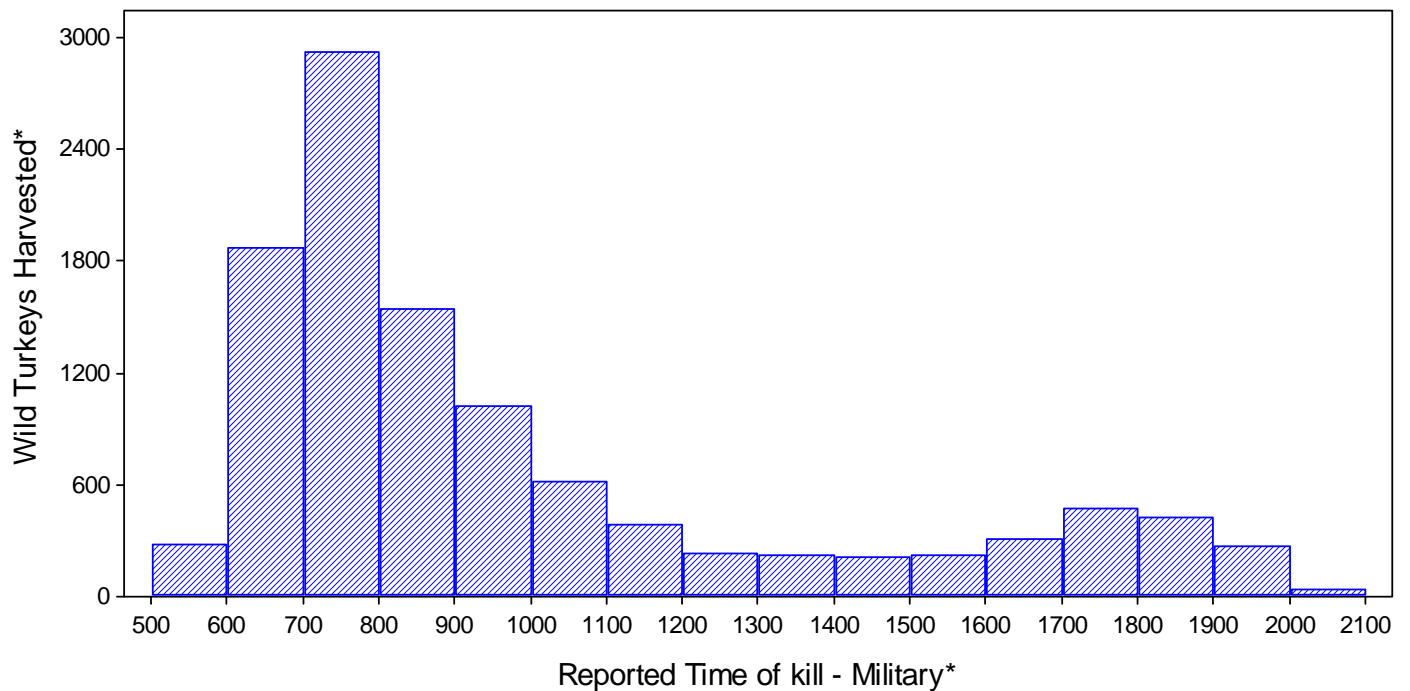
2007 Spring Turkey Season Harvest



* Does not include 736 birds harvested during youth weekend 4/21-22/07

Fig 3 Reported Time of Kill

2007 Spring Turkey Season Harvest



* Includes CST and EDT

Table 2. Composition of Indiana's spring gobbler harvests, 1970-2007.

Year	Reported Harvest	Age Class Percentages* and Mean Weights (lbs)					
		1Yr	Wt.	2Yr	Wt.	3+Yr	Wt.
1970	6	0%		33%		67%	
1971	11	9%		9%		82%	
1972	12	0%		17%		83%	
1973	27	4%		37%		59%	
1974	26	15%		27%		58%	
1975	15	7%		20%		73%	
1976	32	22%		19%		59%	
1977	46	17%		26%		57%	
1978	33	33%		18%		48%	
1979	48	47%		29%		25%	
1980	54	33%		38%		29%	
1981	90	29%		20%		51%	
1982	73	21%		19%		60%	
1983	93	34%		38%		28%	
1984	104	32%		39%		29%	
1985	255	40%		39%		21%	
1986	293	29%		41%		30%	
1987	741	24%		44%		32%	
1988	905	45%	15.4	39%	20.7	16%	21.8
1989	1,359	20%	15.5	63%	20.7	17%	22.2
1990	1,505	31%	15.2	41%	21.0	28%	21.9
1991	2,318	25%	15.5	53%	21.1	22%	22.2
1992	2,531	38%	15.1	43%	20.8	19%	22.2
1993	3,500	18%	15.9	60%	20.9	22%	22.4
1994	3,741	41%	15.2	37%	21.2	22%	22.4
1995	4,706	28%	15.6	55%	20.6	18%	22.1
1996	4,859	24%	15.6	53%	21.6	23%	22.7
1997	5,790	21%	15.7	56%	21.5	24%	22.7
1998	6,384	22%	15.5	51%	21.1	28%	22.5
1999	6,548	25%	15.5	49%	21.1	26%	22.6
2000	7,822	27%	15.2	44%	20.7	28%	21.9
2001	9,975	26%	15.7	50%	20.1	24%	22.1
2002	10,575	27%	15.7	47%	21.3	27%	22.5
2003	10,366	24%	15.3	49%	21.3	28%	22.4
2004	10,765	24%	15.8	49%	21.4	27%	22.8
2005	11,159	33%	14.9	44%	20.9	23%	22.3
2006	13,193	14%	14.5	67%	20.7	19%	22.1
Previous Years' Means **		24%	15.4	50%	21.0	25%	22.4
2007	11,163	22%	15.5	42%	21.5	26%	22.6

* Based on longest spur measurement

** Mean percents and weights based on previous 10 years.

Figure 4
Harvest Age Structure 1980-2007

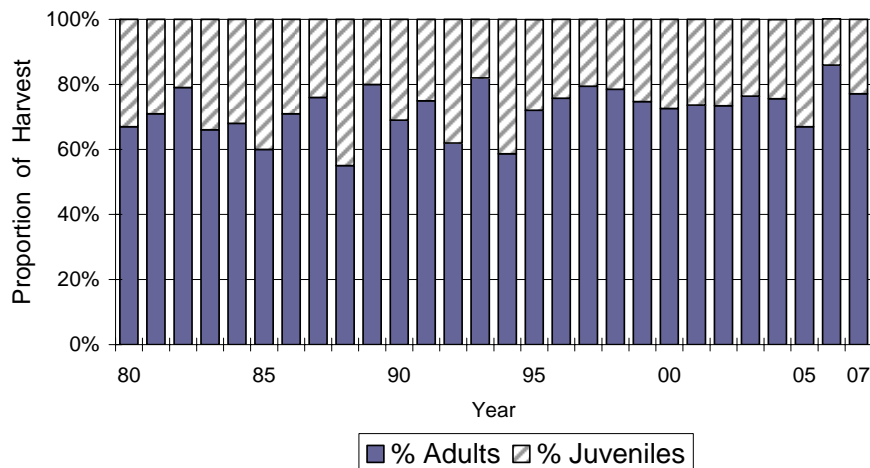


Table 3. Summary of Indiana's wild turkey hunting seasons, 1970 to 2007.

Year	Regular Season Dates	Season Length (Days)	No. of Counties	No. of Permits Sold*	Est. No. of Hunters**	Reported Harvest	Hunter Success
1970	5/2-5/5	4	3	75	62	6	9.7%
1971	5/1-5/5	5	9	298	224	11	4.9%
1972	4/26-4/30	5	9	585	422	12	2.8%
1973	4/25-4/29	5	11	625	503	27	5.4%
1974	4/24-4/28	5	11	665	496	26	5.2%
1975	4/29-5/5	7	11	722	501	15	3.0%
1976	4/29-5/5	7	13	666	500	32	6.4%
1977	4/28-5/5	8	16	668	520	46	8.8%
1978	4/26-5/7	12	18	852	619	33	5.3%
1979	4/25-5/6	12	19	932	860	48	5.6%
1980	4/23-5/4	12	17	706	670	54	8.1%
1981	4/22-5/3	12	18	922	814	90	11.1%
1982	4/21-5/2	12	18	1,125	696	73	10.5%
1983	4/20-5/1	12	18	1,218	984	93	9.5%
1984	4/25-5/6	12	18	1,320	1,205	104	8.6%
1985	4/24-5/5	12	25	1,882	1,302	255	19.6%
1986	4/23-5/4	12	25	2,523	1,648	293	17.8%
1987	4/22-5/6	15	33	3,348	2,619	741	28.3%
1988	4/27-5/11	15	33	10,894	4,677	905	19.4%
1989	4/26-5/10	15	39	11,442	6,068	1,359	22.4%
1990	4/25-5/9	15	39	14,379	7,860	1,505	19.1%
1991	4/24-5/8	15	43	16,387	9,643	2,318	24.0%
1992	4/22-5/6	15	43	18,735	13,110	2,531	19.3%
1993	4/28-5/16	19	48	21,078	15,673	3,500	22.3%
1994	4/27-5/15	19	48	23,357	18,622	3,741	20.1%
1995	4/26-5/14	19	52	28,858	20,861	4,706	22.6%
1996	4/24-5/12	19	52	28,733	21,442	4,859	22.6%
1997	4/23-5/11	19	74	32,703	23,085	5,790	25.1%
1998	4/22-5/10	19	74	32,889	22,876	6,384	27.9%
1999	4/21-5/9	19	74	38,730	27,285	6,548	24.0%
2000	4/26-5/14	19	74	40,801	28,615	7,822	27%
2001	4/25-5/13	19	74	43,815	36,103	9,975	28%
2002	4/24-5/12	19	90	44,333	37,919	10,575	28%
2003	4/23-5/11	19	90	48,857	40,110	10,366	26%
2004	4/21-5/9	19	90	50,839	41,996	10,765	26%
2005	4/27-5/15	19	88	50,839	49,684	11,159	22%
2006	4/26-5/14	19	88	67,290	50,880	13,193	26%
2007	4/25-5/13	19	91	69,860	52,660	11,163	21%
2008	4/23-5/11	19	91				

* Since 1987 totals include lifetime licenses and since 1988 youth licenses sold from Jan-May.

** No. of hunters includes those permit holders who hunted >= 1 day and since 1986 has been adjusted for non-licensed landowners or military hunters.

Bold italics = preliminary estimates based on projecting previous years' trends or means while also accounting for potential effects of regulation changes.